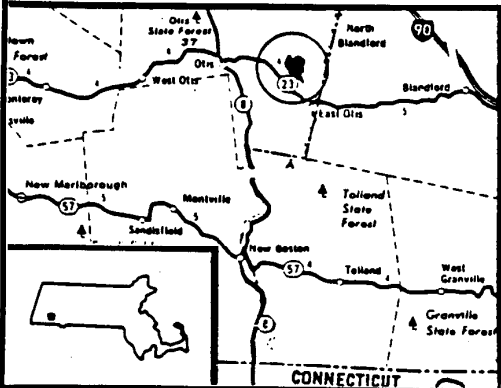




LOCATION



BIG BENTON POND

OTIS
310 Acres

Not To Be Used For Navigational Purposes

BIG BENTON POND (Otis)

General Information:

This 310-acre raised great pond, also known as Lake Winiscutt or simply Big Pond, is located approximately a mile north of Route 23. Average depth is 15 feet; maximum depth is 26 feet. Aquatic vegetation is scarce and transparency is good, extending to approximately ten feet. The bottom is composed of barren rock and sand.

Except for its swampy northern margins, Big Benton's shoreline is heavily developed with permanent and seasonal residences. As a result, shore fishing access is poor. Fortunately there is a fishermen's access (owned by the Public Access Board and managed by the Division of Forests and Parks) located about a quarter mile north of Route 23 near the dam on the pond's southernmost cove. It is suitable for small trailer boats, car top boats and canoes, and includes a parking area. There is also a small boat ramp located off Algerie Road, but we are uncertain of its current status.

Fish Populations:

This pond was last surveyed in 1980. Thirteen species were recorded present at that time: rainbow trout, largemouth bass, chain pickerel, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, brown bullhead, pumpkinseed, white perch, bluegill, white sucker, golden shiner, common shiner and killifish. The pond is stocked with rainbow trout, brook trout and brown trout every spring, and usually receives a fall stocking as well.

Fishing:

Big Benton offers a true smorgasbord of fishing opportunities, but a canoe or boat is almost a necessity due to the poor shoreline access. There is good trout fishing action throughout the year, although most of the pressure occurs in April and May. The bass — both smallmouth and largemouth — are fairly abundant and of good average size. They provide fair to good action throughout the year, but keep in mind that swimming, water skiing and other recreational use of this pond is high, particularly during mid summer, and adjust your fishing schedule accordingly. Bass anglers should concentrate their efforts around the structure provided by the numerous islands and rocks.

This is an excellent pond for ice fishing, producing an occasional large chain pickerel along with large numbers of nice yellow perch.

February 1993